

To the Chairman and Members
OF
THE STROUD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have now for the 21st time to report to the Local Government Board, the County Council, and to you, as to the sanitary state of this district during the past twelvemonths.

My supplemental report for January last finished up with the Small Pox cases, but in March I had a communication that a case had arisen in a district on the other side of London, and no doubt the contagion was taken from here by a visitor from an infected house in Stroud.

The temporary Hospital in Brick Row was cleared out the beginning of March, and a regulation Hospital Tent erected near the Workhouse. No cases have occurred since, and it has become a question with the Sanitary Authorities if the tent is to remain, there being no other place in which to isolate and treat a case should one occur, which may happen, as two or three tramps have been detained (having Small Pox) close to the boundaries of the rural districts. A more permanent structure is needed specially for such cases.

There have been several cases of infectious diseases reported, and are referred to under their respective headings, but there has not been any epidemic form of this class. The cases were generally of a mild character, and the public being better informed as to the necessary precautions to be observed are more careful in carrying out all directions under the supervision of the Inspector, who has been very active in carrying out this important portion of his duties.

My attention has been called to three cases of infectious disease (Measles) in lodging houses, without means of isolation. Should any arise of a more severe character the result might be serious to the town.

Quarterly reports have been sent to the Board, and, when necessary, special returns have been made.

The abstract of Visits, &c., will give the detail of work done during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population for 1894, estimated at the rate of increase for the previous decade 10,059.

During the year 238 births have been registered, 129 males and 109 females, a rate of 23·6 per 1000.

129 Deaths were registered: 63 males and 66 females, including 2 males and 1 female in the Workhouse, and 2 males and 4 females in the Hospital. One in the Hospital came from Wotton-under-Edge, and one an infant from Coleford, both in this county.

For the different Quarters of the Year the deaths have been:

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| First | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| Second | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| Third | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Fourth | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 129 |

A rate of 12·8 per 1000 living; the lowest death rate for the past 26 years.

For the 33 large towns in England the birth and death rates have been 30·2 and 17·7 per 1000.

INFANT MORTALITY.

25 Infants died under one year, a rate of 100·5 per 1000 births.

Causes of death were :

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|---|--------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | 2 | Syphilis | ... | ... | 1 |
| Diarrhoea | ... | ... | 1 | Premature Birth | ... | ... | 2 |
| Bronehitis | ... | ... | 7 | Deficient Vitality | ... | ... | 1 |
| Phthisis | ... | ... | 1 | Liver | ... | ... | 1 |
| Inanition | ... | ... | 1 | Convulsions | .. | ... | 1 |
| Abcess | ... | ... | 1 | Found Dead | ... | .. | 1 |
| Natural Causes | ... | ... | 3 | Dentition | ... | ... | 2 |
| | | | | | | | <hr/> 25 |

For the 33 large towns the rate was 150 per 1000 of births.

48 Persons died over 60 years of age, including 2 in the Workhouse and one in the Hospital—a rate of 4·77 per 1000 of population, and 37·2 per cent. of deaths, none of which require special mention.

Phthisis caused 18 deaths—1 under 5 years, 17 (2 in Hospital) over 5— 1·79 per 1000 living.
 Bronchitis „ 15 „ —8 „ 7 (1 „) „ — 1·4 „
 Heart „ 17 „ —0 „ 17 (2 „) „ — 1·6 „
 Cancer „ 6 „ —0 „ 6 „ „ „ — 0·59 „

2 uncertified deaths were recorded, a rate of 1·5 of total deaths.

The rate for large towns was 1·7.

SUPPOSED CAUSES OF DEATH.

1 probably Phthisis, aged 73 years ;
 1 Diseased Heart of long standing, aged 76 years.

These “ probable ” causes have greatly diminished the last two or three years.

TEN INQUESTS.

1 found dead in bed, no marks of injury, aged 2 months ;
 4 Natural Causes—one 11 weeks old, 8 months, 11 months, and 68 years ;
 2 Asphyxia ;
 1 Hemorrhage from Lungs, 48 years ;
 1 Accidentally Suffocated, 13 months ;
 1 Syncope, Natural Causes, 2½ years ;
 1 Syncope, Weak Heart, excessive drinking, 28 years ;
 1 probably Rupture of Blood Vessel in Brain, 58 years.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Caused 2 deaths—a rate of 1·55 per cent. of deaths :—

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Small Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Typhoid | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

SMALL POX.

Eight cases occurring this year were given in my supplemental report in January. Since then one death (No. 3 on that list) took place, and No. 8, at that time seriously ill, recovered. No others have been reported since.

Of other Notifiable Infectious Diseases a total of 31 were reported, and one death from Typhoid was recorded :—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Diphtheria... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Enteric or Typhoid... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| | | | | | <hr/> 31 |

The Diphtheria cases were of a mild type, and were probably owing to the unsanitary state of the premises. There was no evidence of contagion.

Scarlet Fever 23.—First case reported the beginning of June, supposed to have been contracted away from home. The majority of the cases were of a mild form.

The Erysipelas attacks were of an idropathic character.

Typhoid, four cases, one death. One was imported from the Rural District. One case in the town was undoubtedly caused by an extremely unsanitary state of the premises from defective drainage. One other probably contracted from home. Another was brought into the town from an outside district.

NON-NOTIFIABLE ZYMOTIC DISEASES

Caused 4 deaths :—

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Measles ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Whooping Cough ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Diarrhoea ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act was adopted, and came into force on February 8th, 1894.

Many sanitary improvements have been made, notably the improved pavement in the principal streets, attention to drainage, water supplies, &c.

The town water still maintains its old reputation for purity, so often mentioned in previous reports by myself, and now reported on by the County Analyst.

Attached to this report are tables giving the birth, death, infantile, and zymotic rates for the past 20 years, that may be useful hereafter, if not interesting.

RAINFALL FOR 1894.

Mr. Cowle has kindly supplied me with the rainfall for the past year :—

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| January ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.60 |
| February ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.53 |
| March ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.21 |
| April ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.39 |
| May ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.68 |
| June ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.96 |
| July ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.05 |
| August ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.67 |
| September .. | ... | ... | ... | 2.54 |
| October ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.25 |
| November ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.99 |
| December ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.83 |
| | | | | 32.70 |

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS IN THE STROUD URBAN
SANITARY DISTRICT.

The table below gives the Births, Mortality, &c., for the past 20 years, and the Averages for the quinquennial periods.

It will be noticed that while the rate for the past year has been the lowest yet recorded, the average for the past five years is increased, the chief causes being the high infantile and zymotic rates during the year 1891 and 1892.

The principal factor being an epidemic of Diphtheria, beginning in the former and ending in the latter, causing 13 deaths in 1891 and 7 in 1892, but taking the whole period of 20 years there has been a gradual improvement, as shown by tables below :—

| Years. | No. of Births | Rate per 1000 living. | No. of Deaths. | Rate per 1000 living | Infantile deaths o/o of births. | Zymotic diseases o/o of deaths. |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1875 | 207 | 28.1 | 170 | 23.2 | 15.4 | 5.2 |
| 1876 | 244 | 33.11 | 164 | 22.2 | 11.8 | 9.2 |
| 1877 | 239 | 32.5 | 141 | 19.1 | 15.8 | 12.7 |
| 1878 | 256 | 33.5 | 165 | 21.8 | 18.3 | 6.06 |
| 1879 | 266 | 34.4 | 164 | 21.3 | 17.2 | 7.3 |
| Average | 242.2 | 32.3 | 160.8 | 21.5 | 15.7 | 8.2 |
| 1880 | 275 | 36.1 | 145 | 19.2 | 17 | 10.3 |
| 1881 | 222 | 29.4 | 159 | 21.1 | 13.9 | 10.06 |
| 1882 | 248 | 32.7 | 181 | 23.8 | 14.5 | 9.9 |
| 1883 | 259 | 33.9 | 130 | 17 | 13.1 | 5.3 |
| 1884 | 273 | 29.7 | 158 | 17.2 | 17.9 | 12 |
| Average | 255.4 | 32.3 | 154.6 | 19.6 | 15.2 | 9.5 |
| 1885 | 278 | 29.4 | 156 | 16.4 | 15.8 | 3.2 |
| 1886 | 284 | 29.9 | 160 | 16.8 | 13.3 | 11.8 |
| 1887 | 279 | 29.2 | 160 | 16.7 | 10.4 | 12.4 |
| 1888 | 259 | 26.5 | 125 | 13.0 | 12.1 | 5.6 |
| 1889 | 217 | 21.3 | 130 | 13.4 | 13.8 | 4.6 |
| Average | 264 | 27.4 | 146 | 15.4 | 13 | 7.2 |
| 1890 | 266 | 27.3 | 158 | 16.2 | 13.9 | 5.7 |
| 1891 | 235 | 23.8 | 189 | 19.3 | 15.7 | 18.5 |
| 1892 | 236 | 23.7 | 172 | 17.4 | 15.1 | 10.9 |
| 1893 | 236 | 23.6 | 145 | 14.5 | 14.4 | 6.8 |
| 1894 | 238 | 23.6 | 129 | 12.8 | 10.5 | 1.55 |
| Average | 242 | 25.2 | 158.3 | 16.2 | 13.9 | 8.8 |

1874 not given, as returns at that time were not reliable.

ABSTRACT OF VISITS, CASES, &c., DURING THE PAST YEAR, 1894.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Dwelling-houses in unsanitary state | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Certificates of being dangerous to health | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Defective, Foul, and Badly Constructed Drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Water Supply defective .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Samples chemically examined | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Animals kept so as to be a nuisance | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Meat supposed to be unfit for food examined | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Examined Goods for destruction in Infected House | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Special Reports | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Quarterly, ditto | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Letters to Local Government Board, <i>re</i> Small Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Overcrowding Cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cases of illness visited as to state of premises— | | | | | |
| Small Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Typhoid | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Letters to Urban Sanitary Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Consultations with Inspector | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Attended Board Meetings and Sanitary Committees... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Inspected Workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Visit to person from Cholera Ship | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Notices, <i>re</i> School Closing owing to epidemic | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Letters to Commander "Formidable" <i>re</i> epidemic | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Correspondence <i>re</i> Small Pox from Stroud... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Workshop in unsanitary state | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Special Report to Local Government Board <i>re</i> Small Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Interview with Factory Inspector | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Correspondence, ditto | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Several Letters, &c. | | | | | |

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I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

January 29th, 1895.

THOMAS PARTRIDGE, M.R.C.P.I.
M.O.H.